

Minutes of the Heating Advisory Committee  
January 17, 2008

Members present: Kevin Bayley, Omer Beaudoin, Andy Bernier, Jeffery Cyr, Alan Davis, Steve Dumais, Rob Farley, Bob Ives, Al Little, Kevin Pratte, Lyndon Rickards, Ken Taylor, Bob Wilkins

Interested members of the community present: Tedd Evans, Jim Fusco, Randal S. Ripley, Dianne Swain

The committee chair state that no public comments would be taken during the meeting. Several members of the committee had told him that public comments during the last meeting caused them to go over old ground and had delayed the orderly progress of the committee's work. The chair said he would remain at the end of the meeting to listen to public comment.

1 Instructor vs Proctor requirement

The CETP program of NPGA has been granted a variance by the Fire Marshal's Office, so the instructor can proctor the exams. This was based on the NPGA Proctor registration process. A change of the rules is being proposed.

2 NFPA 54 training, classes and training approval

The Fire Marshal's Office is currently seeking a vendor to provide the 8 hour NFPA 54 training required for people taking the existing technicians route for licensing. It is needed before their first renewal. The proposal for vendors describes the amount of hours of instruction for specific sections of NFPA 54. This will ensure that there is a low cost readily available course offered at various locations around the state.

The rules do not require the Fire Marshal to approve the 8 hour NFPA 54 courses. However those who wish to offer this course, may submit their plans to the Fire Marshal's Office for review. Guidelines for the structure of the course are available from Jeffery Cyr, of the Fire Marshal's Office.

The course does not count as continuing education for technicians who are taking the existing technician route and are required to take this course to renew their licenses. However a person who is not required to take this course, make take it as continuing education.

3 Approved NFPA 54 test-who and how?

The NFPA 54 test, an alternative to the 8 hour NFPA 54 course described above, must be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Marshal will seek the advice of the Heating Advisory Committee as needed on this matter.

Committee members believe that NATE, Vermont Fuel Dealers, NEFI, and PGANE are all interested in developing tests.

4 Licenses for Committee Members

It has been suggested that committee members who qualify, should obtain a gas license.

5 CETP Natural Gas Training Modules

PERC (Propane Education and Research Council) now owns CETP. NPGA will continue to register proctors. PERC has decided to discontinue the natural gas supplements (for Basics and Appliance Installation).

The natural gas supplement to CETP is required in Maine and New Hampshire; therefore PGANE will continue to provide it. It may be offered as a stand alone module for technicians that have successfully completed the propane only CETP.

A brief discussion of combining the propane and natural gas installation and service licenses from four licenses to 2 licenses. It was decided to leave things as they are for now. (See the minutes from Nov. 11, 2007 for a detailed discussion of this issue.)

#### 6 Web-site update.

It was suggested that the web site be updated to reflect the current expiration dates of committee members, new contact information for committee members (Example new e-mail addresses), and changes in the regulations.

#### 7 Clarification of how technicians meet the "Continuing Education" component.

The guidelines for the continuing education are found in the rules (Saf-C 8008.02 (b) (2). The rules state "Courses qualifying for technical instruction shall be designed to assist the licensee in keeping abreast of changing technology, laws, rules, and practices which will affect the gas fitting industry."

The following points were brought out in the discussion of continuing education.

1 The Fire Marshal's Office does not have the authority to regulate the training under the current rules.

2 There is no requirement that licensees attend code classes for continuing education.

3 That training on equipment would have embedded in it changes in technology, codes, rules, laws and practices.

4 NATE currently requires continuing education to maintain certification. CETP may soon require continuing education to maintain certification.

5 A licensee cannot use the same class twice for continuing education credit during a given two year license period.

6 The Fire Marshal's Office would be willing to list continuing education training that is available on its web site. Send the information to Robert.Farley@dos.nh.gov.

The committee decided to recommend leaving the continuing education requirements as currently stated in the rules.

#### 8 Process for future changes in the CETP training curriculum (curriculum realignment)

The CETP curriculum is currently going through a realignment process to improve upon the training materials. An example of a change that will affect Appendix A of the approved training programs is: Distribution Systems 4.1 will only be covering from the propane tank to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage regulator. 4.2 will take over inside the structure. Therefore, a person applying for a NH license would not be required to take 4.1, only 4.2. . The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) has developed and released Basic Principles & Practices in an e-learning format as an alternative to the traditional instructor led class. PERC plans to provide other CETP courses covering gas piping, appliance installation and service in the same format over the next few years as well. These courses will be interactive, have case studies, graphics, etc.

The original course was approved based on the original submission to the committee and the Fire Marshal's Office. Major changes to CETP will require resubmission for reapproval

#### 9 Discussion of the public comments made about the rules.

The committee decided not to discuss the public comments about the rules. These comments had already been weighed and used to modify the rules. Therefore nothing would be gained by going over old territory.

#### 10 Some towns are already enforcing the license to pull permits.

This is an issue of local control; the Fire Marshal's Office cannot tell local officials what to do. However, the Fire Marshal's Office will make every effort to cooperate. If a technician is denied a permit and has a complete application in process, they will give the code official a license number over the phone if the application is complete and has been processed, but the license has not been sent out. They will also make every effort for a speedy turnaround on complete license applications.

The Fire Marshal's Office is not enforcing the rules until July 19, 2008. This is one year after the adoption of the rules.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 21 ,2008, 4:00 P.M., at the Richard J. Flynn Fire Academy.

The committee meeting ended at 5:45 PM.

The chair and several committee members stayed behind to discuss issues with interested members of the public who attended the meeting.

Randall Ripley

1 Why were other organizations on the committee?

The statute, RSA 153:28 selected the organizations to be represented on the committee.

2 Could a person just take the CETP Natural Gas Supplement and get a Natural Gas License?

No, a person would have to have successfully completed the propane CETP, and then successfully complete the Natural Gas Supplement.

Tedd Evans

1 Would like to be informed when the meeting is moved from the Fire Academy.

The committee chair apologized for any inconvenience.

2 Stated that he felt offended that no public comment was taken during the meeting, especially since only four interested parties were in attendance.

3 More work needed to be done to get the word out about the licensing of gas technicians. He felt that technicians he encountered were unaware of the correct information about the licensing process.

During the course of the discussion it was decided that the inspectors were one of the best conduits to get information to the technicians. Mr. Evans suggested that the Fire Marshal's Office could meet with the building officials through their association. The contact person for the organization is Wayne Richardson of Bedford. Mr. Evans would supply the Fire Marshal's Office with the contact information for Mr. Richardson upon request.